The Acts 2:38 False Religion

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart,
and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,
Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Pentecostalism traces its roots back to the early methodist church, a protestant denomination that retained many of the catholic church's beliefs. In the early 1900s, pentecostals in America gathered for what they called the Azusa Street Revival. A question arose among the members during the event: In Matthew 28, Jesus said to baptize "in the name of" the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; but in Acts we see the apostles baptizing in the name of the Lord Jesus. What could this mean? The people tried to understand and reconcile what they perceived as a contradiction and came out believing in a completely different god than the God of the Bible. Reviving the ancient heresy of modalism (renamed "oneness") the holiness pentecostal cult splintered into another new group in 1913 that later declared themselves to be authoritatively "apostolic."

This 20th century creation bases their false gospel and unbiblical practices on a fundamental misunderstanding of Acts 2:38. The Bible says that those who are not saved cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God, and this is proven very true when pentecostals twist one verse to teach four damnable heresies:

1) Repenting of sin is necessary to be saved – a works-based salvation
2) Water baptism is necessary to be saved – a Roman catholic doctrine
3) Modalism – a rejection of the Trinity
4) Speaking in tongues – uncontrollably uttering "heavenly" gibberish

Borrowing from the catholic church's playbook of rewriting of history, oneness pentecostals have made up a self-authenticating story about Jesus only giving the keys of the kingdom to Peter and essentially allowing him to decide how people would be saved from that day forward (misconstruing Matthew 16:18). Both religions will then claim to be the only legitimate continuation of that line.

On the next page you will find each main component of Acts 2:38 along with the interpretation. Each point is intentionally kept brief and has a QR code that will open up a preaching video about that specific topic in great detail. If you believe any of the pentecostal teachings currently, or just want to learn why they're not biblical, I would highly recommend watching the videos that address them to get a clearer understanding. (If you're not able to scan QR codes, visit the website **https://christianfilms.net/sermons** to see the individual messages.)

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent,”

Pentecostal interpretation: Repent means to turn from your sinful lifestyle or to “repent of your sins.”

Biblical interpretation: Repent means to change your mind and believe on Jesus Christ for salvation.

“and be baptized every one of you […] for the remission of sins”

Pentecostal interpretation: Water baptism is required for salvation. “For the remission of sins” means “in order to obtain remission of sins.”

Biblical interpretation: Baptism is an important step in the life of every believer, but it’s not required to be saved. “**For** the remission of sins” means “**because of** the remission of sins” that one receives by believing. (Acts 10:43) “For” here is the same “for” as in John 3:16 or a “wanted **for** murder” poster.

“in the name of Jesus Christ”

Pentecostal interpretation: Jesus is the Father and the Holy Spirit. “In the name of” means saying His name.

Biblical interpretation: “In the name of” means by the authority of, on behalf of, or by the commandment of. Jesus Christ is God, but not the Father or Holy Spirit.

“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Pentecostal interpretation: Upon performing their baptismal regeneration ritual, the individual will lose control of their body and “speak in tongues.”

Biblical interpretation: There is no such thing as “speaking in tongues.” When one believes on Christ for salvation, they receive the Holy Spirit. (John 7:39, Ephesians 1:13)

What is Acts 2:38 actually saying?

The same thing the rest of the Bible is saying: To be saved, one must change their mind (“repent”) about what they believe and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ exclusively for their eternal salvation. After doing so, a person should be baptized by the authority of (“in the name of”) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the remission of sins that they received.

Can we agree to disagree?

The “apostolic” pentecostal cult is not biblical Christianity. Their beliefs do not come from the apostles or from the Bible. When confronted with clear verses disproving their doctrine, these charismatic churches often resort to teaching dispensationalism – a heretical belief system that says the method of salvation has changed multiple times.

Oneness pentecostal churches also teach that a “saved” person can never truly be sure if they’ll go to heaven. Their cult members are kept in spiritual bondage and have no assurance of avoiding eternal hell. They say that it’s possible to “lose” their salvation when, in reality, they don’t even have it to begin with. They have a different god and a different gospel.

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6-8)

The apostle Paul says to let these people be accursed. He doesn’t say go to their churches. Make no mistake: **Oneness pentecostals are not Christians**. We need to shine the light of the true gospel and pull as many people out of these cults as we can before it’s too late.

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The Bible Way to Heaven